

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare unwavering and steadfast support for the State of Israel.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad are single-handedly responsible for the escalation that has led to the bloodshed of Israelis and Palestinians.

These terrorist organizations do not care about people or peace. They seek only to destroy the Jewish state. Israel has every right to defend herself. No nation should be subject to a barrage of rocket fire, like what we see on this easel on a civilian population.

Without the Iron Dome air defense system, the loss of life would be worse than the nightmare before us today. Congress must ensure the lifesaving missile defense systems continue to get the support and funding needed to keep civilians safe.

Israel has taken serious steps to de-escalate the conflict while Hamas has only escalated its attacks. So it is especially irresponsible to demonize Israel's conduct while ignoring her right to self-defense.

America unequivocally stands by our key democratic ally, Israel. I pray for peace and security in the region, and I mourn the loss of all lives—Israeli and Palestinian. I urge the cessation of all intentional acts of violence and a return to working toward a viable two-state solution. Everyone deserves to live in peace from terrorism.

#### NATIONAL NURSES APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Appreciation Week and to celebrate America's hard-working and professional caregivers, our nurses.

National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6 to May 12, during which time was the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

Now, more than ever, nurses deserve our collective gratitude. Our country has faced unprecedented challenges in the wake of COVID-19, and nurses across the country selflessly stood ready to assist their communities and neighbors in need. They spend countless hours away from their families and loved ones while placing themselves on the front line of our national response to the pandemic.

Nursing is a science and an art, reserved for those among us who are the most giving, caring, and passionate about helping others. Nurses are there for major milestones in patient's lives, from birth of a child to the challenges of an aging patient. Patients and family members can count on their compassion, guidance, and care.

Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every nurse for the hard work they do. Their contributions have not gone unrecognized, especially during some of our most trying times.

□ 1700

#### ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mr. GOTTHEIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as millions of Israeli citizens are reeling from a barrage of more than 1,500 rockets fired throughout the country by the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza.

In case there was any confusion, Hamas is a terrorist organization designated by the United States, dedicated to the destruction of Israel, in which Congress has and must condemn for killing innocent civilians and using women and children as human shields.

No one here should make excuses for a terrorist organization.

Who is the next target of their sympathy?

ISIS? Al-Qaida? Hezbollah?

Even though we may not always agree about Israel's policies, we should be very clear that nothing, nothing justifies a terrorist organization firing rockets at our ally. And between terrorists and a democracy, we should always choose the democracy.

Our commitment to Israel's security and its right to defend itself from terrorists is ironclad. I am glad President Biden, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense have stood with our key democratic ally, insisted that Hamas stop firing rockets, and engaged regional partners to end this crisis.

No matter our disagreements, there should be no false equivalences or excuses made by anyone on behalf of a foreign terrorist organization.

As we stand together with our historic ally, Israel, we continue to call for an end to the violence and for calm in the region for the sake of our children and families and for the sake of peace.

#### SOS NICARAGUA

(Ms. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention on the crisis in Nicaragua in Central America.

SOS Nicaragua is our motto. SOS Nicaragua is the rallying cry of millions of Nicaraguans yearning for freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, just like what we have.

Managua is closer to Miami than Miami is to D.C., as Ronald Reagan once said on national television. What happens in Central America has a direct impact on my community in south Florida, home of hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans.

Since April of 2018, Daniel Ortega's Sandinista regime has carried out a repressive crackdown and killed over 325 peaceful protesters, while thousands of Nicaraguans have fled to neighboring Costa Rica and to the United States, escaping Ortega's reign of terror.

This November, Nicaragua is scheduled to have Presidential elections, yet Daniel Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo, are actively undermining the electoral process and persecuting opposition candidates to outright steal the upcoming Presidential election.

The Nicaraguan people have liberated themselves from the shackles of socialist tyranny once before, and they can do it again.

For that reason, the United States must stand with the people of Nicaragua in their struggle for freedom by demanding a free and fair election this November. For that reason, Congressman ALBIO SIREs and myself have introduced my bipartisan RENACER Act, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and stand with the people of Nicaragua.

#### ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

(Mrs. LURIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LURIA. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, the Jew has never been safe. People have demonized, ostracized, and murdered Jews for millennia. From the ashes of the Holocaust, the massacre of 6 million of our brethren, Jews return to their ancestral home to build an oasis in the desert and a democracy of their own.

Jews persisted, even in the face of ultimate evil. And, today, in their rightful homeland, they are attacked from within. Some call them villains for defending their home and their families; for not turning a cheek and a blind eye to terror, bombings, and missiles raining down.

Who would turn a cheek when their mere right to exist is questioned? Or turn a blind eye when history has been so unkind?

Not you and not the Israelis.

And we as Americans, and me as an American and a Jew, must stand for what is right. We must declare that Israel has a right to exist; that Israel has the inherent right to defend itself; that we have a duty, as Americans, to stand by the side of Israel in the face of attacks from terrorists and suicide bombers and malign regimes, who, again, have the same goal in mind, to kill Jews.

Now is the time to stand with Israel.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mr. CARL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleague from Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, aka Cat, for organizing tonight's Special Order hour to recognize our National Police Week.